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PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	
YUTAKA TOKURA ET AL.)	Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Application No.: 10/606,899)	TC/Art Unit: 2621
Filed: June 27, 2003)	
For: DATA TRANSFER METHOD)	
AND IMAGE FORMATION)	
SYSTEM)	July 12, 2006

Mail Stop: Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the non-U.S. patent documents are also enclosed.

An explanation of relevance of JPA20001-100953 (document 1) is given in the full English translation.

An explanation of relevance for the JPA 2000-242249 (document 2) is given in the attached English-language abstract. Note that JPA 2000-242249 corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,529,289.

These documents were cited in an Office Action for co-pending application 2002-215354 dated April 25, 2006. A translation of the Office Action is attached.

The document (1) discloses the method of transmitting image data from a printer control device to a printer through plural signal lines. More specifically, in the method of the document (1), it is possible to select either dot-sequential transmission or plane-sequential transmission according to the type of engine of the color printer.

The document (2) discloses the method of executing black-and-white image printing in a color printer engine.

According to the present invention as recited in the currently pending claims, the plural image bearing bodies each corresponding to each of plural color components are provided, and the plural video data signal lines for each of the color components are provided between the image generation controller and the image processing controller. In such a configuration, when the image data of black color component is transferred from the image generation controller to the image processing controller, the plural video data signal lines are simultaneously used so that the image data corresponding to the plural lines are simultaneously transferred, whereby a transfer processing time of the image data of black color component can be shortened.

On the other hand, in the document (1), the image data transmission method is selected according to the type of engine (i.e., plane sequentially forming images, or dot sequentially forming images). For example, when the color printer engine is the four cycle engine 20, since the engine plane sequentially forms the images, the image data are transmitted by using the plural signal lines of the transmission cable. However, please note that the document (1) does not aim at shortening a transmission processing time of the image data by using the usually unused signal lines. Of course, the document (1) does not disclose that, when the image data of black color component is transferred by the color printer, the image data is actually transferred by using the plural signal lines other than the signal line for black color component.

That is, the document (1) does not disclose and suggest the feature of the present invention "when the image data of black color component is transferred from the image generation controller to the image processing controller, the plural video data signal lines are simultaneously used so that the image data corresponding to the plural lines are simultaneously transferred". Accordingly, the document (1) cannot attain the effect of the present invention "the transfer processing time of the image data of black color component can be shortened".

Likewise, the document (2) does not disclose and suggest the above feature and effect of the present invention.

Accordingly, it is believed that, even if the document (1) and the document (2) are properly combined, such a combination cannot disclose, teach and suggest the feature of the present invention. Moreover, it is also believed that the above effect of the present invention cannot be attained even if the document (1) and the document (2) are properly combined.

In any case, it is believed to necessarily take the above effect into consideration as an advantageous effect to affirmatively admit the inventive step of the present invention.

To the best of Applicant's knowledge, a first Office Action has not yet been mailed for the present application.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form be returned indicating that the documents have been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Krause", is written over a horizontal line.

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